



## RTCA in Pennsylvania

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Pennsylvania offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Pennsylvania will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Conservation Lands in Westmoreland County** – The project goal is to develop maps delineating high valued natural resource lands throughout Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and prepare a strategic plan to guide Westmoreland Land Trust's land protection efforts. (Location: Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania)
- **Living Classrooms Partnership Program** – The project goal is to expand the Living Classrooms Program at the St. James School to engage participants in active learning and character development through recreation, conservation, and nature exploration in their communities and at nearby national park sites. (Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- **Lower Delaware River Canoemobile** – The project goal is to bring together environmental organizations, government agencies, school districts, and other partners to implement an urban water-based environmental education experience for thousands of youth and residents along the Lower Delaware River and its tributaries. (Location: Philadelphia, Ridley Township, Norristown and Elverson, Pennsylvania)
- **Mantua Greenway** – The project goal is to plan and renovate a community greenway along Mantua Avenue and Parrish Street, adding trees, stormwater management infrastructure, public art, and a tribute to Mantua history and community leaders. (Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- **Washington's Trail 1753** – The project goal is to extend the trail route through western Pennsylvania on to Virginia. (Location: Western Pennsylvania)



Students building their own model boats during a Canoemobile event in Philadelphia, PA.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Pennsylvania contact:

Wink Hastings  
whasting@chesapeakebay.net  
(410) 260-2481

Sophie Sarkar  
sophie\_sarkar@nps.gov  
(215) 587-2136



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